

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Nevertheless, war was not openly declared against the Church, and a show of diplomatic relations was maintained with the papal legates. The other Tuscan communes showed no eagerness to enter the league. Piero Gambacorti was divided between his religious feelings and his need of Florentine support; Siena had differences concerning boundaries with Pisa and Arezzo, which latter State was the first to adhere to Florence; Lucca still regarded the Church as her liberator from the foreign yoke, and was most unwilling to commit herself to any hostile action. "Do not allow yourselves to be deceived by any flatteries," wrote the Pope to the government of Lucca, "nor corrupted by any sedition, nor terrified by any threats from those who are, perchance, striving to disturb your peace and pervert your devotion, and who reduce the liberty of their neighbours to servitude when they can; but, like most devoted sons, be columns of the Church which desires and seeks your liberty."¹

Catherine was still at Pisa at the beginning of September, where we find her, on the second day of the month, dictating to Fra Raimondo a letter to the new Senator of Siena, the Marchese Pietro del Monte Santa Maria, a religious and upright noble from Umbria, through whom she was able to keep in constant touch with the government of her native city during her absence at this time.² Shortly after, however, she returned with her spiritual family to Siena, Fra Raimondo apparently remaining at Pisa, where he was still busy with the affairs of the Crusade. But her stay at Siena was very brief. The City of the Virgin could look after herself, and was too powerful to be coerced, while the position of Pisa and Lucca was difficult in the extreme. Almost immediately, probably through the medium of Alfonso da Vada-terra, Catherine received a command from the Pope to repair to Lucca, to confirm that Republic in its tottering allegiance to the Holy See.

Tommaso Caffkrini and Neri di Landoccio are the only two of Catherine's household that we know for certain accompanied

¹ Brief of August 10, 1375. Pastor, *Geschichte*, I. doc. 3.

² Letter 135 (209). Cf. *Cronaca Senese*, coll. 244, 250. 146